



Report of the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods Directorate

Outer South Leeds Area Committee

Date: Monday 1st September 2008

Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans

Electoral Wards Affected:
Ardsley and Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Executive Summary

The Outer South Area Committee's response to the Narrowing the Gap Agenda has in part been the commitment to priority neighbourhoods through Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs). To continue the commitment to priority neighbourhoods and to achieve the Area Committee's enhanced role of community engagement, this report outlines a proposal for a programme of NIPS 2008 – 2011 and to continue funding a Priority Neighbourhood Worker for three years to deliver these key Area Committee responsibilities.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To propose a process for the development and delivery of Neighbourhood Improvement Plans to address the key issues in nine 'priority neighbourhoods' across the Outer South, 2008 – 2011. To seek approval for a series of Ward Member consultations to prioritise and agree the phasing of the improvement planning in the nine neighbourhoods.
- 1.2 To seek approval, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Wellbeing Budget, to fund a Priority Neighbourhood Worker post for three years to support the NIP process and future community engagement events.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 In response to the Narrowing the Gap aim of the Vision for Leeds 2004-2020, the Area Committee developed NIPs. In September 2004, the Area Committee identified several Priority Neighbourhoods on the basis of the levels of deprivation and instances of recurring issues such as anti social behaviour and environmental issues.

- 2.2 To support the delivery of the NIPs, Area Committee approved funding for a Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker for twelve months. The PNDW was commissioned in November 2006 to be delivered by South Leeds Health for All (SLHFA), on behalf of the Outer South Area Committee.
- 2.3 Following the success and impact of the PNDW of engaging with the community and developing residents capacity, funding for the post was extended at the July 2007 Area Committee meeting for a further six months until March 2009. In February 2008, Area Committee continued the project with an additional year of funding to 31st March 2009.
- 2.4 The PNDW left the post on August 8th to start new employment with Leeds Ahead. As the funding is currently only until the end of March 2009, it is proposed to approve a three year project before recruiting to the post.
- 2.4 The report presented earlier to members on Area Committee Roles 2008/09 outlines Community Engagement as an enhanced role of the Area Committee. The Priority Neighbourhood Worker will be a key resource in ensuring the Area Committee delivers this agenda.

3.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2004 - 2008

- 3.1 The NIP programme began in 2004 and brought together the resources of partners to tackle issues identified through consultation with residents, members and officers. The working groups established to steer their Neighbourhood Improvement Plan, consider and propose coordinated actions to better tackle these issues. Three to five issues are identified and between one to four key projects are proposed to address the issue. The action plan details responsible agency, timescale and resource implications. The NIP is chaired by a Ward Member, and coordinated by the Area Management Team.
- 3.2 In 2004, the NIP process identified nine priority areas. These were planned to be delivered in three phrases due to resource and time restraints of Area Management and partners:

Phase 1	Newlands and Denshaws, Morley South Eastleighs & Fairleighs, Ardsley & Robin Hood John O'Gaunts, Rothwell
Phase 2	Wood Lane Estate, Rothwell Fairfaxes, and Oakwells, Drighlington, Morley North The Harrops, Morley South
Phase 3	Springbanks & Moorlands, Gildersome, Morley North Northfields, Ardsley & Robin Hood Parts of Oulton and Woodlesford

- 3.3 Each NIP has a dedicated ringfenced revenue fund from Area Committee Well-being Budget in addition to the services provided by partners involved in the NIP.
- 3.4 In the period 2005 – 2008 NIPs have been implemented in Newlands and Denshaws, John O'Gaunts and Eastleighs Fairleighs. Support work has also been

carried out in Wood Lane and Oakwells Fairfaxes. A plan of improvement is underway for Wood Lane Shops and Drighlington 'Big Spender' and The Children's Project have impacted on Oakwells Fairfaxes.

4.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008 - 2011

4.1 As part of the development of the 2008-11 Area Delivery Plan and the release of the Indices of Deprivation 2007 statistics, the nine 2004 NIPs have been reviewed and a new priority list produced.

4.2 The table below ranks the top sixteen Outer South SOA's from most deprived to least deprived. These are illustrated in geographically in **Appendix 1 (Copies of this document will be made available at the meeting)**.

IoD Rank	SOA Neighbourhood Area	Ward
6306	E01011632 Wood Lane Estate	Rothwell
6803	E01011540 Newlands and Denshaws	Morley South
6817	E01011552 Eastleighs / Fairleighs	Ardsley & Robin Hood
7042	E01011544 Newlands and Denshaws	Morley South
7251	E01011499 Winthorpes	Ardsley & Robin Hood
7342	E01011538 Eastleighs / Fairleighs	Ardsley & Robin Hood
7778	E01011547 Harrops & Elmfields	Morley South
8133	E01011529 Oakwells / Fairfaxes	Morley North
8227	E01011627 John O'Gaunts	Rothwell
8238	E01011639 John O'Gaunts	Rothwell
8245	E01011532 Farm Hill Road, Asquith Avenue, Ingle Avenue	Morley North
9327	E01011519 Moorland Ave, Spring Ave, Spring View	Morley North
10514	E01011541 Morley Town Centre	Morley South
10638	E01011495 Throstles and Martingdale Drive	Ardsley and Robin Hood
11454	E01011546 Harrops	Morley South
13578	E01011523 Finkle Lane, Street Lane, Gildersome	Morley North

4.3 It is proposed not to use the following three SOA's within the NIP process:

- E01011495 SOA ranked 10638, straddles the two Wards, Ardsley & Robin Hood and Middleton Park. As a result, contains streets within Inner area which is receiving INM area support.
- E01011541 SOA ranked 10514, is part of Morley Town Centre which the Area Committee funded Town Centre Management project targets key issues.
- E01011523 SOA ranked 13578 is the lowest ranked SOA. Area Management and partner resources are finite and it is recommended that a limit of nine NIPs is approved as deliverable target.

4.4 The remaining 13 SOA areas will form the nine areas which are suggested to benefit from the NIP process due to their rankings in the worst 10% or 20% in domains of the IoD information. Taking into account available resources within Area Management and partners involved in the NIPs, it is not possible to develop and deliver NIPs for all nine areas. It is proposed that the phased approach is continued.

- 4.5 Currently active NIPs would continue to receive support from the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Aire Valley Homes Customer Involvement Officers, with an exit strategy for the NIP to be identified and implemented by March 2009.
- 4.6 To emphasize that NIPs are a time limited process, a timescale of ten months would be outlined to partners for the implementation of the action plan. However, it is proposed that the PNW would continue to support residents associations in previous NIP areas as appropriate. The phases outlined below indicate the NIPs to be delivered each year but also recognise that there is an important element of support from the PNW to the residents within completed NIPs.

Phase 1 – 2008/09

NIPs

Ward	SOA	2007 IoD Ranking	Area
Rothwell	E01011632	6306	Wood Lane
Morley North	E01011529	8133	Oakwells Fairfaxes

Supported Areas

Ward	SOA	2007 IoD Ranking	Area
Rothwell	E01011627	8813	John O'Gaunts
	E01011639	6562	
Ardsley & Robin Hood	E01011552	6817	Eastleighs Fairleighs
	E01011538	7342	
Morley South	E01011544	7042	Newlands and Denshaws
	E01011540	6803	

Phase 2 – 2009/10

NIPs

Ward	SOA	2007 IoD Ranking	Area
Morley South	E01011546	11454	Harrops and Elmfields
	E01011547	7778	
Ardsley & Robin Hood	E01011499	7251	Winthorpes

Supported Areas

Ward	SOA	2007 IoD Ranking	Area
Rothwell	E01011632	6306	Wood Lane
Morley North	E01011529	8133	Oakwells Faifaxes
Rothwell	E01011627	8813	John O'Gaunts
	E01011639	6562	
Ardsley Robin Hood	E01011552	6817	Eastleighs Fairleighs
	E01011538	7342	
Morley South	E01011544	7042	Newlands and Denshaws
	E01011540	6803	

Phase 3 – 2010/11

NIPs

Ward	SOA	2007 IoD Ranking	Area
Morley North	E01011532	8245	Farm Hill Asquith Road Ingle Avenue
Morley North	E011011519	9327	Moorland Avenue Springbank Avenue and Spring View

Supported Areas

Ward	SOA	2007 IoD Ranking	Area
Morley South	E01011546	11454	Harrops and Elmfields
	E01011547	7778	
Ardsley & Robin Hood	E01011499	6341	Winthorpes
Rothwell	E01011632	6306	Wood Lane
Morley North	E01011529	8133	Oakwells Fairfaxes
Rothwell	E01011627	8813	John O'Gaunts
	E01011639	6562	
Ardsley Robin Hood	E01011552	6817	Eastleighs Fairleighs
	E01011538	7342	
Morley South	E01011544	7042	Newlands and Denshaws
	E01011540	6803	

- 4.7 2008-11 NIPs will continue to use a multi agency steering group to guide and monitor the NIPS. Representatives from agencies will set on the NIP steering group along with representatives from the Residents Association. Ward members will continue to chair the NIP meetings and it is requested that chairs for each NIPs are nominated. If the Councillor who chairs the NIP meeting can not attend it is suggested that in the absence of a local Councillor that the Area Management Officer act in this capacity.
- 4.8 It is proposed that the 2008-11 NIPs have a standard level of elements to them. These will be:
- A community consultation event or survey to find out community views and key issues.
 - A Steering Group is established to be chaired by a Ward Councillor and which has representatives from agencies and the residents association.
 - Action Plan to be produced that includes projects to target 3 – 5 key issues in the area. This will include targeted work linked with ADP actions e.g. distributing information on training and employment, financial inclusion and fuel poverty.
 - PNW to establish or support an existing residents group, and develop an annual calendar of activities which should include a community charter, a community clean up, a quarterly residents newsletter to be compiled and distributed by residents with support from PNW, a community fun day organised by the residents with support from the PNW
- 4.9 The PNW is key to develop the capacity of residents to deal with issues and contact agencies within a core service to assist. It is suggested that a community charter is a format to ensure the community understand what to expect from each agency and how to get in contact is there are any problems.
- 4.10 To support the NIP process the Area Committee is recommended to ringfence £5,000 for each NIP area. This revenue funding will be used to complete specific projects such as youth provision, environmental improvements and community events.
- 4.11 Members are asked to agree in principle the NIP programme 2008-11 and agree to Ward based member consultation meetings to give final approval to programme.

5.0 Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker

- 5.1 The Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker post focuses on community development and capacity building in the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas which in turn contributes to the Narrowing the Gap and Community Cohesion agenda.
- 5.2 The PNDW employed for the last 18 months left on the 8th August having secured new employment at Leeds Ahead. The current post only has funding up until the 31st March 2009. As a result of the work outlined in this report and recognising the current staffing resources in Area Management, it is recommended that the post is funded for a further three year period to follow the timescales of the new ADP. This ensures the Area Committee are fulfilling its delegated responsibility of community engagement and supports further capacity building being undertaken as part of the NIP programme.
- 5.3 Over the past 18 months the PNDW has continues to work in target NIP areas. This has involved assisting in the further development of existing Resident Associations by supporting them in planning, organising and managing their own community initiatives and projects. This has enabled further community empowerment in those areas.
- 5.4 The Priority Neighbourhood Worker is key to delivering the programme of consultation events in the Outer South.
- 5.5 Tasking role – Tasking in Morley and Rothwell is led by local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The meeting includes Anti Social Behaviour Unit, Aire Valley Homes, Police, Probation and Area Management sharing information to co-ordinate and support resolving crime issues in the Outer South. The PNW attending these meetings provides a direct link between the NIPs, tenants and residents associations and tasking. The PNW attendance provides a link between the Area Management and crime prevention agencies to communicate relevant projects between all partners.
- 5.6 The table below outlines to proposed timescale for recruiting the PNW post 2008/11. It is recommended that members approve the three year funding and the advert for the vacancy is posted as soon as possible.
- 5.7

Task	Date 2008
Approval of funding by Area Committee	Early September
Advertisement of vacancy	Mid September
Interviews	Early October
Successor works notice period	October
Start Date	Mid November

6.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

- 6.1 Under proposals from the Executive Board Area Committees have a more central role in overseeing the extent of community engagement within their area.

6.2 The role of the PNW and the NIPS detailed in the report is in line the 'Narrowing the Gap' and the councils commitment to community cohesion.

7.0 Legal and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

7.2 There are resource implications on the revenue Wellbeing Budget if members approve the three year Priority Neighbourhood Worker Post and ringfenced amounts for NIPs in future years

7.3 Funding for the post and NIPs would be subject to an annual Wellbeing Budget approval from the Executive Board.

8.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to approve the proposed programme of NIPS.

6.2 Members are asked to approve three years of funding, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Wellbeing budget, for a Priority Neighbourhood Worker to be employed by South Leeds Health for All.

6.2 Members are asked to agree the ringfenced revenue Well being Funding of £5,000 for each NIP.

Background Papers

- Priority Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 18th October 2004
- Well Being Report 3rd April 2006
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 2nd July 2007
- Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker 25th February 2008